

Environmental Laboratory Services

Federal Occupational Health (FOH) works in partnership with Agency managers to establish and maintain a healthy and productive workforce and safe workplace environments. FOH can also help Agencies comply with and stay abreast of ever-changing OSHA and EPA regulatory compliance mandates. To help you ensure that your Agency's safety and health programs are meeting your Agency's needs, FOH can provide a comprehensive package of occupational health services including laboratory services to assist you with the recognition, evaluation, and control of a multitude of safety and health exposure concerns.

FOH's expert laboratory staff, with diverse analytical and field experience, manages three fully equipped and accredited federal environmental laboratories. These state-of-the art laboratories, offering both sampling and analytical support services, specialize in industrial hygiene, environmental, microbiological, as well as asbestos and other fine particle analyses.

FOH's Environmental Microbiological Laboratory, located in Philadelphia, provides a wide variety of air and water-borne microbial contaminant analytical services and consultations. FOH's Industrial Hygiene and Environmental Laboratory in Chicago provides Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectroscopy, Atomic Absorption, and Wet Chemistry analytical services. FOH's Asbestos and Fine Particle Analysis Laboratory is located in Denver and has both Optical and Electron Microscopy analytical capabilities.

FOH's environmental health professionals can also provide expert consultation regarding optimal sample collection, sample transport, sample preservation and chain of custody techniques.

Microbiological Analyses

Microbial contaminants can include allergens, molds and mildews and are often the cause of employee complaints about musty or earthy odors, headaches, and allergy symptoms such as coughing, sneezing, sinus and upper respiratory problems. FOH's Environmental Microbiological Laboratory helps identify and evaluate potential building-related health hazards, often from samples collected from air, water, wet building materials, and dust. Using bioaerosol, swab/wipe, contact plate, bulk or dust samples, FOH's laboratory can conduct fungal (including *Stachybotrys*) and bacterial characterizations. The lab can also analyze for all sorts of indoor allergens including dust mites and cat, dog and cockroach allergens.

The Environmental Microbiological Laboratory also analyzes both potable and non-potable water for the presence and identification of water-borne microbial contaminants such as *Legionella*, heterotrophic, and *E. coli* bacteria.

Chemical and Industrial Hygiene

FOH's Industrial Hygiene and Environmental Laboratory can analyze potentially contaminated sources for harmful chemical compounds including:

- Heavy metals such as lead, arsenic, cadmium, chromium and selenium.
- Chemicals that have Permissible Exposure Limits and/or Short Term Exposure Limits established by OSHA to protect employees from potential inhalation hazards.
- Substances with Threshold Limit Values established by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists and Recommended Exposure Limits published by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.
- Chemicals that the EPA regulates in industrial effluents, air emissions, and solid waste under the National Permit Discharge Elimination Systems Program, the Clean Air Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act.

Particulates Analyses

Using state-of-the-art electron or optical microscopy, FOH's Asbestos and Fine Particle Laboratory analyzes for the presence, type and quantity of asbestos and other potentially harmful airborne particulate contaminants in federal buildings. FOH uses one or more of the following protocols for asbestos and dust sampling:

- Optical Microscopy
 - Phase Contrast Microscopy (PCM)
 - PCM-NIOSH 7400
 - 160PLM/Point Count-EPA/600/M4-82-020
 - Polarized Light Microscopy (PLM)
 - PLM-NIOSH 9002 & EPA/600/93/116
 - PLM/PCM-OSHA ID
- Analytical Electron Microscopy
 - TEM-AHERA Protocol (Yamate Level II)
 - TEM-Chatfield Protocol
 - TEM/SAED/EDXA-NERL SOP-101
 - TEM-NIOSH 7402
 - TEM/Water-EPA/600/4-84-043
 - Unknown Fine Particle identification

Quality Assurance

FOH's commitment to providing customers with consistently high quality data is evidenced by its strong quality assurance programs. FOH reviews and establishes protocols for all facets of its laboratories' operations, from sampling strategies to the final review and issuance of reports. Since 1996, the FOH Industrial Hygiene and Environmental Laboratory has maintained continuous accreditation by the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA). This has included participation in the AIHA Proficiency Analytical Testing Program (PAT), the Industrial Hygiene Laboratory Accreditation Program for Metal and Organic compounds and the Environmental Lead Laboratory Accreditation Program for paint, soil and dust.

FOH's Asbestos and Fine Particle Laboratory is accredited by the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program for Bulk Asbestos Fiber Analysis. This lab also participates in the AIHA PAT on a quarterly basis.

For over half a century, FOH has delivered high quality occupational health services to Federal managers. FOH's knowledge of the Federal workplace, combined with strategic partnerships with professional health, environmental and safety organizations, enables FOH to help other Federal organizations maintain a safe and healthy workplace. FOH has created a team of professionals that is unparalleled in its ability to work within the Federal structure, yet remains as flexible and innovative as any private sector provider.

Through convenient interagency agreements, FOH's Clinical Services, Wellness/Fitness Programs, Environmental Health Services, and Employee Assistance and Work/Life Programs can provide your agency with a comprehensive occupational health program that saves you time and money. Our ability to customize services enables you to integrate components of our services with existing programs, enhancing their impact and ensuring that your agency meets its obligation to provide a safe and healthy workplace.

Make Federal Occupational Health your partner in building a healthier, more productive work force. For more information, please visit us at www.foh.dhhs.gov or call us today at **1-800-457-9808**.

Because you need a healthy work force. And we can help you build one.

healthy bodies ❖ sound minds ❖ a safe place to work